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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

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Cattle Inventory
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Milk Production

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 900,000 pounds, down 10 percent from November and 18 percent below the previous year.

There were 800 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, down 300 head from November and the previous year. Average live weight was 913 pounds, up 62 pounds from the previous month but 17 pounds below November 2005. Total live weight, at 755,000 pounds, was 17 percent below the previous month and 26 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during December totaled 400 head, down 100 head from November and down 200 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 499 pounds, up 26 pounds from November and 8 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 201,000 pounds, was down 20 percent from November and 33 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 2,400 head, up 600 head from the previous month but 300 head below December 2004. Average live weight was 164 pounds, down 8 pounds from November but up 5 pounds from the previous year. Total live weight was 401,000 pounds, up 29 percent from November but 5 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 100 head, the same as November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 84 pounds, up 3 pounds from the previous month and 2 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004

December 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight, at 1,281 pounds, was up 13 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,100 head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight, at 370 pounds, was 36 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight, at 272 pounds, was 2 pounds above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2005 commercial red meat production was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year; veal was down 7 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	November	December		January – December		December		January – December	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Number, thousand head									
Cattle	1.1	1.1	0.8	13.4	12.5	2,690.3	2,665.9	32,728.3	32,379.4
Calves	0.5	0.6	0.4	7.7	6.0	74.6	60.1	842.4	734.3
Hogs	1.8	2.7	2.4	22.9	20.4	9,249.9	9,233.3	103,463.4	103,553.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.7	1.7	242.1	231.0	2,839.3	2,700.0
Total live weight, thousand pounds									
Cattle	905	1,020	755	11,793	10,984	3,410,332	3,413,978	40,587,025	40,705,102
Calves	252	300	201	3,791	2,947	24,883	22,249	278,224	259,304
Hogs	311	423	401	4,528	3,876	2,496,228	2,510,190	27,587,880	27,824,369
Sheep & Lambs	10	7	7	157	158	33,816	32,931	386,801	373,705
Average live weight, pounds									
Cattle	851	930	913	880	879	1,268	1,281	1,240	1,257
Calves	473	491	499	492	491	334	370	330	353
Hogs	172	159	164	198	190	270	272	267	269
Sheep & Lambs	81	82	84	92	93	140	143	136	138
Million pounds									
Red Meat	1.0	1.1	0.9	13.1	11.7	3,930.4	3,952.7	45,416.5	45,715.9

Cattle Inventory – January 1

Class	Louisiana		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	860	820	95,438	97,102
Beef Cows	494	468	32,915	33,253
Milk Cows	36	32	9,005	9,058
Beef Cow Replacement, Heifers	82	82	5,691	5,905
Milk Cow Replacement, Heifers	9	9	4,118	4,278
Other Heifers	18	18	9,763	9,795
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	22	20	16,476	16,923
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	32	32	2,219	2,263
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	167	159	15,250	15,626
Cattle on Feed	---	---	13,745	14,132

	2004	2005	2004	2005
Calf Crop	415	400	37,505	37,780

Louisiana Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2006, were estimated at 820,000 head, down 5 percent from a year ago. All cows that have calved were estimated at 500,000 head, down 6 percent from a year ago. Louisiana's 2005 calf crop was estimated at 400,000 head, down 4 percent from the 2004 calf crop.

- ▶ **Beef cows** were estimated at 468,000 head, down 5 percent from January 1, 2005.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 32,000 head, were down 11 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and changes from a year ago were:

- ▶ **Beef cow replacement heifers** – 82,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Milk cow replacement heifers** – 9,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Other heifers** – 18,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Steers 500 pounds and over** – 20,000 head, down 9 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls 500 pounds and over** – 32,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds** – 159,000 head, down 5 percent.

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2006, totaled 97.1 million head, 2 percent above the 95.4 million on January 1, 2005. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.3 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2005.

- ▶ **Beef cows**, at 33.3 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2005.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 9.06 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2005.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2006 and the change from January 1, 2005, are as follows:

- ▶ **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 20.0 million, up 2 percent.
- ▶ **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.9 million, up 4 percent.
- ▶ **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.3 million, up 4 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers**, 9.8 million, up slightly.
- ▶ **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 16.9 million, up 3 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.3 million, up 2 percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.6 million, up 2 percent.
- ▶ **Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots**, 14.1 million, up 3 percent.
- ▶ The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was
- ▶ 28.2 million, up 2 percent.

The 2005 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.8 million head, up 1 percent from 2004. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2004.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: December 2005

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2005	December 2005	January 2006 ¹	January 2005	December 2005	January 2006 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.93	5.89	5.80	5.57	5.77	5.51
Rice, per cwt	7.81	7.21	7.38	7.39	7.49	7.40
Upland cotton, per pound	.414	.473	.488 ²	.385	.479	.496 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	87.80	92.00	91.20
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	65.80	62.30	61.60	89.40	93.60	94.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	101.00	102.00	105.00	94.40	99.90	101.00
Cows, per cwt ⁴	50.70	43.60	43.00	50.50	47.20	46.50
Calves, per cwt	117.00	122.00	127.00	125.00	134.00	137.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.430	.390	.380
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.558	.719	.610
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.90	14.80	14.50

¹ Mid-month.

² Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

³ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available.

January Farm Prices Received Index Down

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 3 points from December. The Crop Index was down 3 points and the Livestock Index also decreased 3 points. Producers received lower commodity prices for lettuce, turkeys, eggs and hogs. Higher prices were received for cattle, oranges, corn and cotton. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities sold by producers. Increased average marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, tomatoes, dairy and cotton.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 1 point from January 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, was down 4 points from last month but increased 2 points from January 2005.

Prices Paid Index Up

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 145 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index increased 2 points from December and was up 8 points from January 2005. Higher prices in January for gasoline, LP gas, complete feeds, and feed supplements more than offset lower prices for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, milk cows, and potash and phosphate materials.

Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2004-2005

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows ¹		October-December Milk Production ²	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	17	15	56	50
Arkansas	23	21	73	64
Louisiana	36	32	108	95
Mississippi	26	24	86	82
Oklahoma	75	75	297	293
Tennessee	73	69	270	257
23 Major States ³	8,102	8,154	38,539	40,292
United States⁴	9,019	9,050	41,983	43,605

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

⁴ May not add due to rounding.

Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 95 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2005 quarter, down 12 percent from the same period in 2004. Milk cows averaged 32,000 head during the quarter, down 11 percent from last year.

United States Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major states during December totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from December 2004. November revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from November 2004. The November revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major states averaged 1,665 pounds for December, 55 pounds above December 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major states was 8.2 million head, 67,000 head more than December 2004, and 4,000 head more than November 2005.

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